

Postcode to Travel To Work Specification

Travel To Work Areas (TTWA)

TTWAs are used in labour market analysis and reflect reasonably self-contained zones in which the bulk of the resident population also work. The 228 current TTWAs were defined in 2015 using 2011 Census information on home and work addresses and are built from 2011 Census LSOAs in England and Wales, data zones in Scotland, and SOAs in Northern Ireland (see Section 34). The previous (2007) areas were based on the same statistical geographies from the 2001 Census.

In concept, a self-contained labour market area is one in which all commuting occurs within the boundary of that area. In practice, it is not possible to divide the UK into entirely separate labour market areas as commuting patterns are too diffuse. Travel to work areas (TTWAs) have been developed so that relatively few commuters cross a TTWA boundary on their way to work. As such, TTWAs are based on statistical analysis rather than administrative boundaries.

The current criteria for defining TTWAs are that at least 75% of the area's resident workforce work in the area and at least 75% of the people who work in the area also live in the area. The area must also have an economically active population of at least 3,500. However, for areas with a working population in excess of 25,000, self-containment rates as low as 66.7% are accepted as part of a limited "trade-off" between workforce size and level of self-containment. The resulting pattern is that many areas are much larger than others – indeed, much of London and its surrounding area forms one TTWA.

The 2011 TTWAs (published August 2015) were produced by Newcastle University, using an algorithm to identify commuting patterns from a 2011 Census matrix of commuting flow data by origin and destination for workers aged 16 and over, based on residence postcode and address of the place of work in main job. For the 2011 TTWAs, statistical geographies were used to define the TTWAs: lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) for England and Wales, data zones (DZs) for Scotland, and super output areas (SOAs) for Northern Ireland.

TTWA boundaries are non-overlapping and cover the whole of the UK. TTWAs have been assigned to regions based on where the highest proportion of land area for the TTWA falls. TTWAs can also cross national boundaries, although no account is taken of commuting between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Source: Travel to work area analysis in Great Britain: 2016, ONS (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/articles/traveltoworkareaanalysingreatbritain/2016>)

Data Files

This product consists of 3 comma separated text files with a header record.

Files **PCL-TTW-UK-CSV_1.csv** and **PCL-TTW-UK-CSV_2.csv** together represent all current live Postcodes in the UK with their associated Travel To Work area.

PCL-TTW-UK-CSV-1 contains all live Postcodes from Postcode Areas AB to LN

PCL-TTW-UK-CSV-2 contains all live Postcodes from Postcode Areas LS to ZE

PCL-TTW-UK-CSV-Retired contains all Retired Postcodes

Each file can be opened in Excel versions 2007 and later if required. For database applications, both files can be loaded into your choice of database (e.g. Microsoft Access) and appended to create a single national data table of Postcodes.

File **PCL-TTW-UK-CSV-Retired.csv** contains Postcodes which have now been retired from the Postal system and therefore are no longer in circulation. This file is supplied free of charge to provide a comprehensive 'history' of Postcodes and the current Travel To Work areas. It is recommended to use this data file in conjunction with the 'live' files above to achieve the maximum match rates for accurate analysis.

Table Structure

Field	Description
Postcode	Full UK Postcode (e.g. OX7 5LJ)
Postcode Sector	The Postcode Sector (e.g. OX7 5)
Postcode District	The Postcode District (e.g. OX7)
Postcode Area	The Postcode Area (e.g. OX)
TTWA Code	The Travel to Work Area code for the Postcode. The field will be blank for Postcodes with no grid reference.
TTWA Name	The Travel to Work Area name for the Postcode. The field will be blank for Postcodes with no grid reference.

The Postcode

Formerly a Postcode could contain between 1 and over 300 addresses. This is now restricted to a maximum of 100 although the average number of addresses per Postcode is 15.